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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/530,675	05/23/2005	Michael Wilhelm	123293	6935

25944 7590 09/08/2006

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EXAMINER

KRISHNAMURTHY, RAMESH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3753

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/530,675	Applicant(s) WILHELM, MICHAEL	
	Examiner Ramesh Krishnamurthy	Art Unit 3753	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6 and 8-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 May 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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This office action is responsive to communications filed 10/24/2005.

Claims 1 – 10 are pending.

1. The specification lacks proper section headings such as Introduction, Summary of Invention, Brief Description of Drawings, etc. See MPEP 608.01(a). Appropriate correction is required.

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 8 - 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Claim 8 recites the limitation "the damping sleeve" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

5. Claim 9 recites the limitation "the axial bore" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1 – 4, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rohacs (US 2,941,629).

Rohacs discloses a pressure limiting valve, comprising a valve body (6) biased to a closed position by a spring (9), whereby a connection between a pressure port (13)

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and a return port (12) may be controlled open, and to which a damping device which involves a damping piston (10) defining a damping chamber (in between (10) and (6)) is associated for damping the valve body movement, characterized in that the damping chamber is formed on the return side and is connected to the pressure port (13) by an axial bore (14a) that is disposed along a length of a radially recessed pin (the "nose" part of (6) is being regarded here as the pin). A damping sleeve (10a) about which the spring (9) is disposed is shown in Fig. 5. The piston (10) is seen to open into an axial bore of the valve body (6) and extending in portions thereof. Fig. 5 shows the damping sleeve (10a) forming an end-side termination of the damping chamber.

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rohacs (US 2,941,629).

The patent to Rohacs discloses the claimed invention with the exception of explicitly disclosing a stepped back axial bore at the radially recessed pin. It is considered to be an obvious design expedient to provide a stepped back axial bore over those features of Rohacs in that it provides no new and/or unexpected result nor solves a stated problem. The device of Rohacs would work equally well with a stepped back axial bore (14a).

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10. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rohacs as applied to claims 1 – 4, 6, 8 and 9 above, and further in view of Vismara (US 3,099,999).

The patent to Rohacs discloses the claimed invention with the exception of explicitly disclosing longitudinal grooves at the outer circumference of the pin.

Vismara discloses a check valve wherein longitudinal grooves (32) are disposed on the outer circumference of the pin (26) for the purpose of providing a gradual and guided inflow to the seat of the valve.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided in Rohacs, longitudinal grooves on the outer circumference of the pin for the purpose of providing a gradual and guided inflow to the seat of the valve, as recognized by Vismara.

11. Claims 5 and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

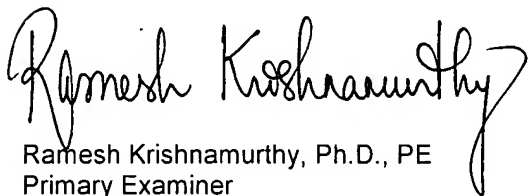
12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramesh Krishnamurthy whose telephone number is (571) 272 – 4914. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Keasel, can be reached on (571) 272 – 4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273 – 8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ramesh Krishnamurthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Ramesh Krishnamurthy, Ph.D., PE
Primary Examiner
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